[Shri Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh]

which will be issued to IDBI. And if those guidelines are issued, the whole business will become totally self-defeating. there will be no venture and the venture capital will only be used for the same traditional business which it is used for today. The whole purpose of bringing forward this Bill, which we call the Resarch and Development Cess, Bill, 1986.. will be defeated. Therefore. I urge upon the hon. Minister to please view these suggestions of mine with some care and come our with some solution so that whenever the rules are framed all these lacunac are removed and we truly have a venture capital. India really has a proper venture capital market where people can invest money into high-risk ventures with subsequent very high returns for the country, where new inventions will be coming forward, where foreign technology will be proporly adopted for the needs of this country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Vijaya Mohan Reddy.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): There was a statement to be made at 6 O'clock.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. MANUMANTHAPPA): Even this Bill has to be finished today. The statement as well as the Bill, both have to be completed. The House has already agreed that it will be gone through today because it is a Money Bill and it cannot wait till 11th.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: We have not agreed to it. Why is it necessary? Let the statement be there and then adjourn the House. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please sit down. Now the Minister will make the statement.

6.00 P.M.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—Contd.

II. REGARDING INTERIM RELIEF TO WORKERS IN SUGAR INDUSTRY

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Mr. Vice-Chairman. Sir,

The Government of India set up the Third Wage Board for Sugar Industry workers on 17-7-85 under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) J. M. Tandon to consider the question of a further revision of the present wage structure in the sugar industry.

2. The following recommendations were made by the Wage Board by way of interim relief:—

(1) The workers covered by the Second Wage Board Report shall be eligible for the interim relief;

(2) The workers reaching the maximum of the grade shall continue to earn annual increment in their existing time-scale till the submision of final award.

(3) The workers who have already reached the maximum of scale one year or more on the first of January, 1986 shall be entitled to the next increment in the existing scale w.e.f. 1st January, 1986.

(4) The workers shall be paid Rs. 45 per month with effect from the date of the expiry of the last Agrement between the workers and the management or 1st January 1986, whichever is earlier, till the submission of the final award.

3. Government have accepted the above recommendations of the Wage Board for grant of interim relief to the sugar industry workers. The recommended interim relief will have only a marginal increase in the cost of production which the industry can be expected to absorb in the revised price structure effective from 1-12-85. There would be no increase in the levy price of Sugar.

4. About 3.80 lakh warkers in the Sugar industry would stand to benefit.

5. A Resolution notifying Government's decision is being published in the Official Gazette.

SHRI K. G. MAHESHWARAPPA (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. the sugar industry is facing a crisis. One of the important factors to be taken into consideration while considering increase

Now I am not opposing the dual price policy or partial control in the Government of India's sugar policy. The point is have you calculated the cost of production of one quintal of sugar? And the industry has to pay a remunerative cane price, the industry has to pay more wages. If they cannot make profit, are you going to drive the employer out of business? We are not going to increase the levy price. It is a matter which is under the consideration of the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies. In fact this question was being considered in he Consultative Committee. The hon. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies is also present here. Now the ratio of free sale sugar is increased to 45.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): What was it earlier?

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Now it has been increased. Earliar it was less. I am not asking for free sugar sale. But you just consider whether with this ratio of free sugar and levy sugar, the industry can make profit.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Just a minute, please. Let the clarifications on this statement not turn into a discussion of the sugar policy. I might say that Government is considering all aspects of the sugar policy. Government has to see the interest of sugarcane cultivators, the sugar mills as well as the consumers. All the aspects are under consideration separately.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश): क्या माननीय मंत्री जी शुगर पालिसी पर भी कोई विचार विमर्श हाउस में करायेंगी ?

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Sir, my humble submission is, this question of sugar policy was..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Let it be pointed questions for clarification.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: I understand that this matter has not been completely and conclusively considered and a decision is not yet taken by the Government of India. The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies is still considering revision of the sugar policy and it has not come out with a sugar policy as yet. Therefore, we have pleaded for increase of the free sugar quota from 45 to 55 and that levy sugar should be at least fifty-fifty.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Then what will happen to the consumers?

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Then I will even go to the extent of saying that sugar is a luxury item. We can live even without sugar. But, supposing the sugar mills are closed down, thousands of workers will be driven on to the streets. You are considering only increase of wages and not survival of the industry. I am also interested in paying more prices for sugarcane. Cane growers are not getting remunerative prices, the consumer is not benefited and the workers are not benefited. Something is wrong somewhere in the sugar policy itself and therefore the sugar policy will have to be revised in order that the industry would survive. My submission is that this division of zones as north zone, central zone, south zone, Maharashtra zone, etc., is also not on a very rational basis.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): All that comes under policy.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: No, no. The second Wage Board..;

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: This is not a discussion about sugar policy.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: The second Wage Board, while considering the wage structure, has gone into all these aspects. These are all the aspects to be taken into account. What else will a Wage Board take into account?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You can't question the policy, please.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Palicy is linked with Wage Board's recommendations and the industry's capacity to

pay. The Government cannot just direct the sugar mills to pay more. Therefore, any increase is not on a very rational basis, I submit, I am not opposed to a need-based or minimum wage in spite of the fact that the sugar industry is working under loss. But there must be a rational basis. Accepting the recommendations summarily without going into the hardship of the industry is not fair. That is my respectful submission. Though I welcome the increase, I want the honourable Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to consider this aspect of the capacity of the industry to pay more. Thank you.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, after hearing my honourable predecessor I am a little hesitant to seek clarifications.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You will have to confine to the parameters.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: After hearing him and after reading that the workers shall be paid Rs. 45 per month with effect from the date of expiry of the last agreement between the workers and the management and the comment that it is a small sum which can be absorbed by the industry, I am afraid I want a guarantee from the Minister that this will not lead to a reduction in the proportion of the levy compared to the total. That is number one. Secondly, I have read very recently that perhaps the sugar industry is also one which is an additional beneficiary from water resources at the cost of inferior cereals which are required by poorer sections of the population. Now sugarcane is discussed here every year almost but I think this year we have not yet discussed this. The sugar industry is also criticized because of the fact that sugarcane groweres are not getting remunerative prices. I am not an expert on sugar industry and I do not know what exactly their wages are, and whether by granting Rs. 45 they arrive at a living wage or not I want to know from the Minister. Further, would he utilize his powers to see—as I almost saw a threat in my predecessor's statement—that the sugarcane growers would not suffer and consumer prices would not be raised because of this additional impost on the sugar industry? I want these clarifications and assurances.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, about this Wage Board itself, I do not know what the rationale is. In 1965 the Second Wage Board was announced by the Government, and it gave its report in 1970. Five years it had taken. And what has it given to the workers? While enunciating the principles we say that the main intention of forming the Wage Board itself is that a fair wage to the worker, improvement in the living conditions, social conditions, all other benefits to the workers will be gone into. And what were the wages that were given? They are Rs. 200, Rs. 210, Rs. 220. Every day the prices are going up.

After so many years the Third Wage Board has come in. That means there has been a lapse of something like 20 years. So much water has flowed in the River Ganges. The prices have gone up double-fold, treble-fold and so many folds. And the workers have been penalised for everything. In this blessed country every sacrifice for development has to be made by the working class. For how many years are the workers going to tolerate this? The entire wealth of the country is produced by the workers. They put in their sweat and blood. Every time are being cheated. And the Labour Minister gives this. After 20 years you are giving Rs. 45. Do you mean to say that you are going to satisfy the working class in the sugar industry? Not at all. Because they have given a threat to go on a total strike, you have come out with this interim wage. And nobody gets satisfied because if you enter into any factory, you will see the living conditions of the workers. There are no houses, no dwelling places. They have to work.

The contract system is there. Bureaucratisation of the entire sugar industry is there. Pilferage is there. Crores and crores are being taken away by the managements and certain selfish persons including politicians who are managing this particular industry. Whether they are in the co-operative sector, whether they are in the public sector or they are in the private sector, these people are taking benefit out of the sugar industry, and the working class is made to suffer. That is why I request the hon. Labour Minister kindly to see that this amount of Rs. 45 is not enough.

Also another fact is that there is the spiralling prices. What is the DA you are going to announce?

I request a reply on these points from our hon. Minister.

Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. V. Ramanathan. One minute.

SHRI V. RAMANATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, as it has been submitted by other elder Members of this House, the sugar industry is a well-built industry and is earning a lot without paying anything to the cane-growers. They want to go on without paying to the workers also. Whenever it is questioned, they say, "The Government fixes the price. It is the lowest. We are not able to pay." When the cane-growers ask, they say, "The Government fixes the price. We cannot pay" Therefore, the factors are cheating the cane-growers as well as the workers.

As my learned friend submitted, 15 years after the Second Wage Board the Third Wage Board comes now. Even here they are not fully paid.

As far as the working conditions are concerned, they are only seasonal factories; only for four or five months they are working. Only a skeleton staff and workers will be there. For the rest, seasonal workers are put in. There is no work for four, six, eight months. Only for a limited period they are working, and they are being paid a very small amount. And the 20 or 30 per cent of the workers who are working throughout the year, are also not paid even properly. Therefore, these things the Government must consider. They must consider making payment to the cane-growers as well as the factory workers. Further raising the price of sugar even by 50 paise or more per kilo will not cause great oss to the consumers who are taking sugar. Therefore, by raising the price of sugar a little they can pay to the workers as well as to the cane-growers. This must be considered.

The fixation by the Wage Board is very low. This must be reconsidered. I want a clarification whether the Government will consider all these facts and give more salary to the working class.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय अभी तो यह बहस का विषय नहीं है, सिर्फ कुछ क्लेरिफिकेशन्स के पाइन्ट्स हैं। मैं सरकार के इस विचार से सहमत हूं कि इतनी छोटी रकम जो मजदूरी की बढ़ी है उसके लिए चीनी के मूल्यों में कोई बढ़ोत्तरी करने की जरूरत नहीं है क्योंकि पहले भी उसके प्राइसेज कई बार बढ़ चुके हैं। अगर फैक्ट्री वाले चोरी करते हैं, ठीक से उसको चलाते नहीं हैं तो इसके लिए मजदूर जिम्मेवार नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि मजदूरों को सिर्फ 45/-रु० मिलेंगे। आप जानते है कि चीनी उद्योग के जो मजदूर हैं वे बाकी दूसरे उद्योगों के मुकाबले में बहुत कम तनख्वाह पाते हैं। कोयला उद्योग को लीजिये, स्टील उद्योग को लीजिये, बिजली को लीजिये या टक्सटाइल उद्योग को लीजिये। इन क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के मुकाबले चीनी उद्योग में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की तनखाह आधी रहती है। वह इनसफिशिएन्ट है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री

[श्री चतुरानन मिश्र]

महोदय से यह कहना चाहता हू कि इस पहलू पर भी वे विचार करें । हमारे देश में जितने भी आर्गेनाइज्ड सेक्टर है उनमे सबसे कम तनख्वाह चीनी उद्योग मे काम करने वाले मजदूरो को मिलती है ।

दूसरा पाइन्ट जो क्लेरिफिकेशन का है वह आइटम नं० 1 की लेग्वेज के बारे में है —

The workers covered by the Second Wage Board Report shall be eligible for the interim relief.

सेकेन्ड वेज बोर्ड के बाद जो नई शुगर मिल्स बनी है वे कवर होंगी या नहीं Becaus enew mills have come are having more profit and clause their workers will be of this. This is not just at all. Therefore, I would like to have clarification on these two points. There is one more point on which I would like to seek clarification. ard to the last agreement between the workers and the management referred in the statement. The second clause is quite clear, but the first clause that is the last agreement between the workers and the management is not clear. Several agreements between the workers and managements were effected in different parts of the country on different dates. So, I would like to know how this will be applicable. When the whole industry gets benefit, it should not be that one sector is getting the benefit and another is not by virtue of the simple fact that some increment might have been there due to their own negotiations on one date or another. This matter should be looked into. I would like to have clarification on this also.

A. SANGMA: I had expected that on a announcement of this nature, there would be no necessity of seeking clarifications and that the whole House would welcome it.

A point has been raised whether the industry is capable of absorbing it. I have made out in my statement that this will only result in a marginal increase in the cost of production and therefore, the industry will be able to absorb.

The Wage Board has a representative from the sugar industry. The views of the sugar industry have been taken into consideration and I might inform the House that the recommendation of the Wage Board is unanimous. So, it is the unanimous recommendation of the Wage Board which the Government has accepted. The question of sugar industry being aggrieved does not arise because they are a party to this recommendation.

Another point which has been made by hon. friend is why we say the industry will be able to absorb because, as Mr. Mishra has pointed out, the price of levy sugar has been increased from time to time, the last one being, as I mentioned in my statement on the 1st December, 1985, an increase of 40 paise.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: What about molasses?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA it to go into all these controversies. Some Member said that the increase of price of levy sugar should not have been made by the Labour Ministry but by the Food Ministry. This is not correct, because it is the decision of the Government of India. It is not the decision of the Labour Ministry alone. So there is no question of doubting about it. Sir, another important point has been made that the award is very low. I may only add that it is an interim relief that we are giving. Some hon. Members wanted to know whether it is adequate or not? It has also been mentioned that sugar industry workers getting less than other industrial workers. Sir, it is because of these reasons the Government has appointed a Third Sugar Wage Board and it is going into the pay structure and looking into the matter. Till a final recommendation is made, an interim relief has been recommended. So the Government has accepted it and the interim relief of Rs. 45 per month in effect has been given. If we take into

account the incidental benefits like provident fund, gratuity, house rent allowance, etc., the total amount that a worker will be entitled to will be Rs. 45 plus Rs. 9 that is about Rs. 54 they get. I think these are the main points which have been made. I believe that the House will be happy about that.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I want to seek one very important clarification: Whether all the categories of workers will be getting it or not?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: The statement is very. very clear. All the workers covered by the second Wage Board will be eligible for this. You have made another point about the expiry of the date of last Agreement. It differ from industry to industry. So there are some people who might be getting prior to 1st January, 1986.

THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CELL BILL, 1986—ontd.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, when do we adjourn? Today we have not been allowed lunch break. We have not agreed to this also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Chatterjee, you were not present when the opinion of the House was taken to go through this Bill.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I was always here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): No. You were not present here. Please sit down.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we have got another import along with the import of technology. Just now I have heard that this is an import of 'venture capital fund' also. This is some kind of a new information to me. That is how we jumble ourselves with ideas and create more confusion. I agree that issues are simple. But I want to mention one thing that in every Plan we allot money for the development of science and technology. There are about 900 research laboratories and a lot of money is spent on our scientists but still they are sore. They want to go abroad. This is a phenomenon which is not prevalent in other parts of the world to the extent which we are having here. We must make a thorough investigation as to why this is happening. We should not be content that we are getting a lot of foreign exchange because of the earnings of these Indian scientists who are working abroad. We must also try to know that these scientists are working in other countries at a very crucial period of our development. To add to this, the another factor, that is, there is no participation at all of the workers in the industries. The scientists are not there. The workers do not participate at any level of management. Then, where is the indigenous technology which we can develop. India was one of the greatest countries, the technology, which India had was one of the greatest in the world that we are able to call upon. Because of our great textile industries, the entire Europe was depending on our textiles. Today our textile industry is in doldrums. Our farmers who grow all these raw materials are also facing a crisis. That is why, Sir, this indigenous factor is lagging behind or completely submerged in the craze for purchase of imported technology in a readymade form which is highly dangerous for the independent survival of our economy. Technology is one of the main channels through which international money, through which international monopolists try to infiltrate into our economy and finally make our economy secondary. That is why our manufacturing capacity, our capacity to compete in the world market is of not much consequence and we have got a huge trade deficit. That is why we have to take these very very important factors into consideration when we are considering a Bill of this nature.' That is why, I want that in Clause No 6, this clause may be limited only to indi-